

**METHODS AND DEVICES FOR ESTABLISHING AN AREA PARTY LINE  
SERVICE FOR TELEPHONE CALLS**

**ABSTRACT**

5           Methods and devices establish an area party line for telephone calls to provide a  
geographically based chat forum via a telephone. One method receives telephone calls at  
a local call station where the telephone calls may be landline calls from callers serviced  
by the local call station, wireless phone calls from users who are currently located in  
proximity to the local call station, and/or long distance calls from callers who have dialed  
10       into the local call station using an area code and exchange. Callers provide an indication  
of an area party line, such as a star code, and the local call station bridges the calls  
together. Another method receives telephone calls at a central call station, where the  
telephone calls are directed to the central call bridging station from a local call station,  
and the central call bridging station bridges the callers together depending upon the local  
15       call station that the calls are transferred from. The callers may be local callers, long  
distance callers, or wireless callers to the local call station.